# Showing Swindlers in the World of Art Never Lack Victims







PORTRAIT of A MAN" OFFERED by the
PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY AS PART OF A VAN
DYCK COLLECTION, and NOT A RUBENS

PAINTER like a poet, is gen- the centre for artistic faking of old masters are made not only long after copied Raphael's portrait of Leo X. they have been born, but after they

The business of producing antique supposedly the work of famous artists was an original. of an older day seems to be one of not been hit hard by the war.

Interest has recently been focused in dispute by the court manœuvrings in connection with the suit brought by Jackson Johnson, a and owner of the St. Louis Star, against Prof. Elia Volpi of Flormce, Italy. The American manufacturer is suing the Italian art authority because he alleges that two portraits he bought from Prof. Volpi, one represented to be by Rubens and other by Van Dyck, were not

#### Thrives Here as Abroad.

fruch a cry of falsity has been heard before, and doubtless will be ard again so long as acknowledged leaders in art do not have their regand so long as ambitious but impe-curious art students are willing to eke out their living by copying or "creating" old masters and disposing of them to art dealers who sell them as unquestionable originals.

Not only does this industry of fabricated old masters thrive in Europe, perticularly in France and Italy, but this country, ever willing to seize Old World devices and if possible improve on them, is becoming, especially in New York, a veritable hotbed of an-

Such spurious pictures are always anted on old pictures, daubs that are picked up by agents of unscrupulous ctors for a song. Only pictures which already bear signs of age will The worse the daub the higher price it will fetch in the end from the rich but credulous art patron, who Le eager to have distinguished signatures lining his walls.

For in the case of the impossible ears the original daub is rubbed down, and a new picture, aping some over it. Sometimes the copyist, having ter in question, won't slavishly tranfrom another, a background from draperies from a fourth. he will have a nicely synthetized exemple of the painter's work, to which he will add a signature, a monogram, or sometimes merely a couple of in-

Then the real foul play commences The canvas is artificially aged. The first step that is most in favor among devotees of this process is leaving the a beautiful timeworn finish. Next value of a genuine Van Dyck and a League of Nations. A mandatory na they are usually "smoked." The Rubens of this type would be \$12,000, tion is intended to average utilization. forgery is held over the smoke of and that the real value of the paint- governmental control over a backbegins to take on after its first cen-

After this a mixture of water, to bacco ash, licorice, lampblack and dirt for the few thousand dollars involved. apply only to colonies and other terriis smeared over the surface, which is then dried and dusted off. The painting is treated with boiled linseed oil, which darkens the color still more coat is applied, consisting of mastic, heighten the ancient air the painting cracked by the use of quick drying Court in October. varnish while the paint is fresh, or the picture is put in an oven. "Flicking" often indulged in, a sepia wash eing spattered over the painting by a brush to give the effect of fly

In Italy composite pictures are fre quently produced under the name of might be called selections from the overwhelming evidence to the contrary. rks of old masters. They are sold in that country frankly as copies, with Dr. Wilhelm Bode, for many years the examination may lead to an opin particular style of picture is. Often agents of dealers in other countries whom they are shipped. The dealers have them touched up, and then

Italy, in fact, seems to have been

erally looked upon as being masters even as far back as the time born; not made; but many old of the old masters themselves. It is paintings and other objects of art der the pleased impression that this

the occupations of Europe that has seen reported to have been duped by world's finest craftsmen has been common among all classes of society.

The late J. P. Morgan, for all his activities as a collector, was said to be among the fortunate few who could wealthy shoe manufacturer of St. Louis outwit a wily dealer, largely through Mr. Konody is now in this country as his practice of accepting a painting art director of the strikingly interestand then waiting six months before actually paying for it. This allowed plenty of time in which the authenticity of the picture could be estab-

Though many collectors are fleeced by fraudulent works the fact that more court is generally due to their re-luctance to admit that any one has luctance to admit that any one has take it way to the Kaiser Friedrich goldbricked them. As Mr. Johnson said Museum in Berlin. He paid about in his examination before trial in the \$40,000 for it, and when it turned out

the person in whose name the suit was first brought because I didn't want to seeped to be the other way round. get the advertising and notoriety I knew I would gain here. Even an amateur does not like to pose as a fool, you

Art circles are watching the progress of the case closely, because of the prominence of the sale at which Mr. distinction of those who attended it. The pictures were included with the contepts of the Davanzati Palace of Volpi brought here, and at the end of the six days bidding, in November, 1916, the total of \$944,192 was reached making it the fourth largest sale ever held in this city.

Among the purchasers at the sale were Joseph E. Widener, Mrs. Benjamin Thaw, Henry C. Frick, Otto H. Kahn, Louis C. Tiffany, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Boston Art Museum and the Minneapolis Art Mu-

Mr. Johnson, who had set about replacing a collection of valuable paintings that had been destroyed in 1915, when his house was burned, purchased what he believed was a "Portrait of He will borrow an arm from Carolus de Mallery," by Peter Paul restlessness in various sections of one of the master's paintings, take a Rubens, and a "Portrait of Augustin the world where goevrnment does a third work by this genius, and His doubts were first aroused by the His doubts were first aroused by the but rests upon ultimate control from director of the St. Louis Museum and without. Evidence of the restlessness later strengthened by Martin Hofer, an expert of London and New York, who from the Philippines; from the two Volpi offerings, which he believed to be genuine, but questioned whether the verse of self-determination has come same could be said of Mr. Johnson's from the Peace Conference at Paris purchases.

Thereupon the manufacturer brought suit for \$11,800, although the purchase price for the pictures had totalled only tral European Powers, that of "manbut that it was a matter of the vin- tories which as a consequence of the Volpi, and the latter would prove that

set down for trial in the Supreme there

When the German Expert Erred. Though the disputes that arise have generally come from a purchaser who state that there is beginning to be buyer insisted on misleading himself States to take a mandate over Mexico into believing that he had a prize of and the news suggests the advisability o," or "mix-up," being what antiquity in the face of seemingly of examining conditions in that coun-That was the spectacle presented by er a mandate is called for. Perhaps attempt to mislead as to what this curator of the Kaiser Friedrich Mu- ion as to the readiness of the three seum of Berlin and one of the artistic wever, they come into the hands of pundits of Europe. He bought a wax bust which he pronounced an authen-tic product, entitled "Flora," from the Government of Mexico is that it can-

later presented to the Duke of Mantus, who, though he already owned sev-Rbyalty even in our own time ha

Victorian sculptor in England named "I assigned the claim in this case to Richard Cockle Lucas the hugh

## His Doubts Aroused.

versatile genius, Leonardo da Vinci.

has been one famous case where the ernment circles of asking the United try with a view of determining v termination.

Seen reported to have been duped by speak on this famous case is Paul G. pute his assertions. I challenged him quite satisfied that the bust was the meyer in Parls for a very low price. with his initials C. H. at the bottom work of Leonardo da Vinci. Perhaps Later it was sold to Herr von Nemes, a of the sketch, has come into the owning priceless conceptions by the server, who waged war on Dr. Bode's vestigation of the interior of the bust, Dr. Bode didn't want to let the Kaiser wealthy Hungarian collector, at a very claims through the columns of the London Daily Mail at the time when the German savant was Prussianly positive that the bust was unquestion-

which to mould the wax.

"Finally Dr. Bode agreed to have a picture taken of the bust, draped as it had been in the original photograph. When the photo was taken, under similar lighting conditions, it turned out to be identical with the original. Not even this could alter Dr. Bode's opinion. The bottom of the statuette was next scraped, and bits of a copy of the Times of the same date as the making of the bust were found.

to Lucas for restoration. What more a current newspaper should adhere to the work? Then, by agreement with Dr. Bode, a small hole was cut in the back of the bust with a red hot wire. Through this they found in the core

an early Victorian quilt! "Next the wax composing the bust Albert Durer Lucas, a son of the ing of one of the followers of Leo- Bode, with typical Prussian pertinacnardo da Vinci, which was intrusted to ity, adhered to his first fixed idea that him for that purpose by an English

son had not only assisted in the mouldguns because of a conference he had war," ing of the bust, but he had in his poswith the Kaiser. During the con-"However, nothing could shake Dr. Bode's conviction, and because of his was given out to all the newspapers painting without Dr. Bode's certificate. positive that it was spurious. On May great reputation most of the leading that his Imperial German Majesty, After the work had thoroughly depre-

as the younger Lucas had said that down. I don't know how he'd feel high price as a genuine Rembrandt his father often used any old material about it now. At last accounts the with a certificate to that effect by Dr. that came to hand as the core around 'Flora' was still on view in the Berlin Bode." museum, in fact, it used to occupy a

Wealthy Men Defrauded and Experts Deceived by Bogus Masterpieces-

Fraudulent Industry Thieves Unchecked by War-Whole Collections

Found Spurious-Story of German Critic Who Fooled Himself

This is not the first time, according to Mr. Konody, that the judgment of the celebrated German art expert has erred. In at least two other instances within the knowledge of the English critic his opinion has been criticised as

"One incident occurred when he was shown two pictures by an early Flemish master," said Mr. Konody. "With-"Dr. Bode found it easy to explain out hesitation Dr. Bode pronounced one picture to be a genuine sample of the said the bust had been turned over one picture to be a genuine sample of the paintep's work and declared the other had been done by another hand. natural, he said, than that particles of Then the man who had shown the two pictures to him and obtained this authoritative statement from Dr. Bode revealed to him that both pictures man had cut through himself."

The other pot of, hot water centered was analyzed and was found to be around a figure of St. Francis, repre- English masters held by another firm by William T. Evans, chairman of the sculptor, who never achieved any particular prominence outside of this was not in vogue with the early Italwork. The son recalled that his fasher had done the bust from a paint.

September 1. Evans, chartes held by another firm a spermaceti. This type of material sented as a painting by Rembrandt.

Dr. Bode is considered the leading Continents and source of the collector, against William doubts, and when Lewis & Simmons, believing in good faith that it was for two paintings which he bought for two paintings which he bought that they are of the followers of the master are generally not offered for Romney's work, refused to refund the sale without his O. K.

"When this picture was shown to "I rather imagined he stuck to his him a couple of years before the tice in London. clared that it had not been executed

A case which was signalized by its

framatic finish and by the fact that 100,000 was returned to the aggrieved party - then one of the largest amounts ever involved in court procedures of this kind -- occurred when Henry E. Huntington, the American financier collector, brought suit to re-cover on a picture which had been sold to him as a genuine Romney.

This was supposed to be a picture of Mrs. Sara Siddons, the celebrated English actress, and her sister. It was bought by Mr. Huntington in January, 1913, from Lewis & Simmons art dealers of London and New York, on their guarantee, backed up by ex-perts, that it had been painted by the Metropolitan Museum and Mr. were part of the same panel which this Huntington's home as the work of the noted English portrait painter, it was refused a place in an exhibition of old circles

purchase, price Mr. Huntington carried the case to High Court of Jussaid Mr. Konody, "Dr. Bode de- perts were called by the defence, were troversy he was closeted one day with by Rembrandt. Of course this spoiled picture was authentic, and experts called by the plaintiff were equally 23, 1917, the action was unexpectedly critics did not have the courage to dis- after examining all the evidence, was clated in value it was bought by Sedel- terminated when Leslie Scott, counsel

for the art dealers, made this state-Jackson Johnson's Lawsuit Over Portraits Recalls Innumerable Instances of ment to the court:

that this was a picture by Romney, but since the hearing in court yesterday a very dramatic thing has hapsketch by Ozias Humphrey (a noted miniaturist and friend of Romney). with his initials O. H. at the bottom On Mr. Lewis's seeing the photograph he felt it essential in the interests of ustice that it should be brought to your lordship's knowledge. That sketch by Ozias Humphrey is undoubtedly a sketch which was made

for the picture which Mr. Lewis and his partner, Mr. Simmons, and so many distinguished experts who advised them thought was a picture by the \$2,000, and the Minister of Public Mr. Lewis immediately offered to take the picture back, repay the \$100,-

and the court permitted this. The the Ladies Horatio and Marie Waldegrave, painted by Humphrey in Rom-ney's studio, and Dr. G. C. Williamson. who discovered the sketch which ended the suit, stated that in his opinior an arm and part of the drapery in Romney. . After having been hung in the painting had actually been done by

> One affair in New York not many years ago caused a wide split in art That was the suit instituted from the dealer in the bellef that they had been put on canvas by the late Homer D. Martin, the American

> The pictures, entitled, "Old Mil Near St. Cloud" and "Near Newport" were bought by the connoisseur in 1903 and later presented to the National Gallery of Art, but were after-ward recalled by Mr. Evans when he became convinced they were forgeries. The long standing friendship of the was broken and in addition to bringing a civil suit against Mr. lausen in the Supreme Court here Mr. Evans had him arrested and ocked up in Ludlow street jail in May, 1908.

## Both Sides Hotly Championed.

Both sides were hotly championed by leading artists. At the trial F. Hopkinson Smith was positive the nictures were by Martin. Henry W. the landscape artist, on the other hand testified against Mr. Clausen. nesses called by the plaintiff declared that an artist was hired by Mr. Clausen to turn out pictures by "In ness, Wyant, Martin and Blakelock. Mr. Clausen, however, called the artist to testify that he merely acted as ists, and brought witnesses to refute the charge that imitations of their work had been folsted upon the mar

The trial ended in a disagreement of the jury. Mr. Evans announced his antiquity occurred a few years as intention of having a new trial, but in this country through the custom the matter was settled out of court. Apropos of the stir created at the Wellesley, Mass., imported into the time by this case and the general country early in 1916 a "markle ten questioning of the authenticity of an- ple" to ornament his estate, described tique pictures that ensued, Sir Caspar as a "palladic" of the seventeenth con-Purdon Clarke remarked that it was tury and said to have cost thousands quite possible, as some critics con- of dollars. Customs officials, doubte can form or give effect to no tended, that two portraits in the its age and its status as a true work Metropolitan Museum of Art listed as or original art, which would have the the work of Gilbert Stuart were not titled it to entry free of duty, leved the product of his brush. These were an impost of 45 per cent, ad valorem portraits of Don Josef de Jandenos y on it. Nebot, one time Spanish Minister to America, and his American wife, who United States Court of Customs Ap was Matilda Stoughton.

What aroused the scepticism of connoisseurs was the fact that these por- produced partly by machinery with traits were signed with Stuart's name less than fifty years, and that it had -a practice he did not indulge in as a been treated with applications de rule-and also were marked "R. A.," though he never was a member of the antiquity. Royal Academy. But Sir Purdon took | The present King of England when the attitude that objects of art should he was Prince of Wales, is reported be judged more for their real worth to have purchased on advice a core and less for the names attached to which he presented to the Dublin tribe, who would visit their neighbor- them. So long as names governed the Gallery of Modern Arti. The picture choice of art patrons, he held, there had the support of four London ex-

Fakers of Botticellis and other old by Meszoly such as prevail in Mexico, have a gov- masters became so numerous in Italy seam. Corot appears to be a painter ernment for the people. If such a at the opening of the present century of the past who is most frequently that the Italian Government in 1912 duplicated, one authority stating interest it would seem that it would started a laudable movement to wipe to his knowledge Corot had painted them out of business and in the only 750 pictures in his life yet course of it the Italian authorities 17.000 "genuine Corots" have been imwere fooled by a faker themselves, ported into this country.

Fine arts officials in the Govern ment became weary of being deceived "I was going to call this morning by dealers who applied for exporta-Mr. Langton Douglas, curator of the tion permits to sell paintings abroad Dublin Art Gallery, who took the same and then, upon receiving the certifiview as the other experts that I called cate enabling them to send a picture out of the country because they se so low a value on it, sold the picture price declared to the exportation office

They decided in turn to deceive the next owner of a painting who at-tempted to evade the payment of a high tax in this way. When an art dealer submitted an old painting for exportation, valuing it at only \$2,000 although he attributed it to the noted Dutch painter Jacob Van Ruysdae whose works are generally rated above opportunity to buy it under the right of preemption allowed them by law. The art dealer gave a fine performance of a disgruntled man as he pocketed Instruction warmly congratulated the officials on their shrewdness in preserving a masterpiece to the nation at

such a low price. Then the awakening came. Proti pronounced it fraudulent. He determined this largely by a cheadcal test, consisting of applying to the picture a composition of his own invention.

## A Russian Swindles.

A Russian swindler of criminal fame who was sentenced to jail in 1918 was Lew Hauchmann. He originated the "Tiara of Saitaphernes," repre-Scythian king, and the Paris Louvre bought it for \$40,000, Prof. Stern of the University of Halle in Germany exposed the fake and a goldsmith in Odessa later confessed he made the tiara from designs submitted to him by Hauchmann

The controversy of this tlara had a curious sequel. Among those profess ing expertness in matters of art who imitation when the Louvre bought it were Luigi Parmiggiani and Mme Parmiggiani. Later Parmiggiani was arrested as an aparchist in a raid on his antique shop by the Paris police. and his wife asserted that it was due to persecution by the authorities of the Louvre whose methods they had attacked.

Then it developed that this man had circulated among wealthy society in New York as Louis Marcy art connoisseur, at the same time that he was in close touch with the anarchist group in Paterson of which Bresch was a member. Marcy had been nominated as a patron of the Metro politan Museum of Art, and presented to Gen. Luigi P. di Cesnola, then di rector of that institution, objects to which the director declared to be genuine. Afterward it became known that he had planned to sell to rich acquaintances there a large collection of spurious antiques, together with bonafide objects, at a value set at \$1,200,000, but that his arrest had nipped this scheme in the bud.

An exposure of a bogus specimen of officials. William Hewson Baltzell of

Mr. Baltzell protested, but the peals upheld the customs officials. signed to produce an appearance of

would always be the temptation to perts, but the opinion was strongly fake.

## Mexico's Outlook and the Mandatory Question

T was inevitable that the promulgation of the doctrine of "Self determination" should produce not proceed from within the section,

ably the work of Leonardo da Vinci.

ing Canadian War Memorials Exhibi-

"When Dr. Bode bought the wax bust in London in 1910," said Mr. Kon-

that it was an early sixteenth century

work by the Italian master and rather

jeered over the ignorance of the peo-ple in England who allowed him to

that it was the product of an early

Exposed by Sculptor's Sen.

session a photograph of it

"The exposure came about through

the other day, "he was certain

comes from Corea, from Egypt and acquired \$30,000 worth of the former in very pronounced form.

A doctrine which is the exact rein the first paper which has been given out for the consideration of the nations associated against the cen-

started Cesare Guglielmetti, then region, under mandate from the Volpi's agent in New York, said he league. As put forth in the covedication of his reputation with Prof. great war have ceased to be under the sovereignty of the States which the pictures were what they were rep- formerly governed them, but acceptability of the idea for these regions After dragging through the courts was bound to bring speculation as to for two years the case has now been its applicability to others, where does not obtain government,

> its international obligations. some talk in French and British Gov

which is either in the interest of the

hands of the Renaissance sculptor and not possibly operate in accordance with its scheme. The scheme is for One of the men best qualified to popular government and the populace

person can have a clear title to an down to the Jefe Politico in direct conoffice, since no elections are held, or tact with the people, exercised oppresever have been held, and the people do not know how to vote, or even that they have a right to vote. Any government, therefore, must be some kind of usurpation in which the people have no voice, either as to its character or as to the persons who carry

Having thus no power to compel it, the great body of the people do not get government in their interest and never have got it. Seventy or eighty per cent, of the entire populano means of communication between different sections, of knowing what the inhabitants of various sections are \$8,000. He declared, however, that the datories," in the covenant of the thinking, of exercising or even of Rubens of this type would be \$12,000, tion is intended to exercise ultimate tirely without ability to exercise the power of combination or the power smoldering damp straw, which gives ings he held was only \$200, which he ward region, as a sort of trustee, in of the ballot to compel their govern subtracted. At the time the suit was the interest of the inhabitants of the ing officials to govern them as they want to be governed, and they are without capacity to form an opinion had been approached to settle the case nant the doctrine was designed to as to how they want to be governed. A government in the interest of th people would therefore have to be bestowed by reason of the benevolent

desire of the governing class. A solution of the question for Mexico has sometimes been declared to be obtainable through the medium of an absolute ruler who would be well disposed; and the government of the late President, Porfirio Diaz, in its best days, has been cited as an illustration of the kind which is suited to the con dition of Mexico and would be satis-

#### factory if it could be reproduced. The Price Dias Exacted.

The Government of Diaz, however to be. No man, not even he, was suf-

sive power, each over those below him oftentimes with grossest injustice and even with atroclous cruelty. It is true that under Diaz the na

enterprises flourished. Railroads were built, mines were worked and great haciendas were cultivated. All this was the result of government in the inter est of a favored class.

## Harrowing Tales of Oppression.

Harrowing facts are related of small officials who would throw peons in ment, in return for financial considprison on trumped up charges, retain them there indefinitely without trial and compel them to work upon roads passing through and augmenting the value of the property of the ment. officials; of great land owners who, by fraudulent manipulation of the laws, any solution of the problem of good would dispossess of their titles in their government from within Mexico? own interest people whose ownership of land had extended through their ing that country expect to receive a families over a period of a century or more: of Governors of States containing populous cities who would dispossess by murder or imprisonment small shopkeepers in order to become possessed of their business or of female members of their family and who would repeat such acts indefinitely. The husband or brother complaining of such treatment, either of a male or female relative, would invite a similar fate for himself and for his own. The were entirely under the control of the administrative authorities. The President was well aware of

these conditions and probably was

When, under the civilizing influence of commercial enterprise, penetrating was not the benevolent despotism slowly downward through the upper strata of the mass of the people, a considerable number of individuals be Mexico in absolute power without the to realize their position and its causes, support of a sustaining group. Diaz their determination to relieve them had such a group, and the price of selves from it found a populace with their support was the privilege of many grievances, ready to lend itself tyrannizing over and exploiting the to the purposes of revolutionists and of the Cabinet, the Governors of the out being able to realize the remote ippine Islands.

tificos was overthrown; only to be replaced by another group under well meaning but incompetent Madero, more quickly but probably no more inevitably than would have been the case under a man of more practitional credit rose and many profitable cal ability. The people therefore found themselves governed just as unsympathetically by this set of officials as formerly; but the condition order was maintained, and the fornot receive the protection which they eration wrung from the people and bestowed in the form of graft. These special interests, therefore, brought about the fall of the Madero Govern-

Under these conditions can there be Can any such people as those inhabitgovernment in their interest when they are unable to compel it, when public opinion, and have no means of their duty, or of forming a common opinion as to what that duty shall be? Can such a people, unable to communicate with each other or to learn each other's thoughts, form any national sentiment or any real con-

If they dislike the foreigner, must it not be simply because of their experience, accenuated by the teachings of interested persons that the foreigner is a stranger, a person not belonging to their immediate community or hood only for the purpose of despoiling them? In the history of the world it ficiently strong to maintain himself in low the governing official class began is doubtful if there will be found any fake. set of people who, under circumstances people is to have a government in its people whom they were supposed to rise in revolt against a state of which have to come from without, as in the govern constitutionally. The members they felt the immediate pressure with- case of Egypt, of India, or of the Phil-